

The Casemates

SPRING 2006

Fort Adams Trust

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Fort Adams Trust is to direct and support the stabilization, restoration, maintenance and operation of Fort Adams as a public historic site.

www.fortadams.org



From the President's Desk

We are looking forward to an exciting 2006 at Fort Adams. For the first time since the North Casemates project began in 2002 we will be enclosing a section of the Fort for a new use. The Youth Overnight Barracks (*see separate article below*) will provide multi purpose space for youth and re-enactor overnights, small meetings, and special events. The accompanying lighting project will illuminate the East Gate area (our main entrance) and a section of the Parade from the East Gate to the North Casemates where our activities are concentrated. This will address a major impediment we have experienced trying to have evening events at the Fort and give more visibility to the Fort from the east (City) side.

Another project we hope to

advance this year is the walking trail around the Fort along the East Passage and south to the later Endicott period batteries, the post cemetery, and finally Eisenhower House. Guided by interpretive signs similar to those already in place on the grounds of the Fort, the purpose of the trail is to encourage visitors to see and learn more about the Fort and the many defenses which remain on the peninsula, and to reinforce the idea of Fort Adams as a destination for many different types of outdoor activities.

The fact that we have completed reroofing the entire run of Officers Quarters in the East Front presents us with a serious challenge for 2007 and beyond. The Youth Overnight Barracks will be built for

seasonal use only, with no year round utility and maintenance needs. Future work in the Officers Quarters will involve the restoration of historic finishes, and enclosure for possible installation of new exhibits. In order to move to this next step, the Fort Adams Trust must grow in order to be able to support and maintain such a facility. Here is where your help is needed to ensure success:

Help us to recruit new members. Our membership is the base of our support and must grow much larger in order to support the kind of fundraising we will need to continue restoring the Fort. Give Eric Hertfelder a call if you have any prospects or would like membership materials to give to friends.

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Youth Overnight Barracks and Lighting for 2006 Project

Our 2006 project will be our first in the Officers Quarters. Four bays plus a hall and entryway will be rehabilitated to serve as a Youth Overnight Center including a separate quarters for adult

chaperones. The project will take place in a section of the Officers Quarters adjoining the Circular Stair that burned some years ago and is now down to bare brick except for the proposed

chaperone's quarters, which retains its historic plasterwork. Most of the area will be finished in plain style to look like a barracks to include a common room ...

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Special points of interest:

- **Fort Adams Trust Annual Meeting is on Friday, May 19th from 5:30-7:00pm at the Eisenhower House in Fort Adams State Park.**

After the meeting members are encouraged to go down to the Fort for the opening reception of Jen Raimond's art installation.

- Members get a 10% discount in the Fort Adams Gift Shop, located in the Visitor's Center of Fort Adams State Park. Come check out the new T-shirt designs!
- Family Day is back and bigger than ever. June 17 from 11am to 6pm.

Sculpture Project at the Fort

Jen Raimondi, a Rhode Island artist and instructor at Rhode Island School of Design, is creating a sculptural installation especially for the restored casements in the north wall of Fort Adams. The work will be present at the site from May 18 through May 31, 2006. Special free public viewing hours for the piece will be from 3 to 5 pm each afternoon. A guide will meet visitors at the information center.

This compelling project will include a ghostly tree cast in marble, with small sleeping doves perched on its branches, and a large blonde bird towering over a field of delicate frosted shrubbery. Altogether the project will

convey a sense of peace, loss, and a ghostly presence of the past. Fort Adams was built for defense, but never saw combat in all its years of activity. It's a place of waiting, anticipation, and stillness.

There will be a number of special events, open to the general public, in conjunction with this project, including a musical performance of collected lullabies (a cooperative effort with the artist's sister, Julie Raimondi), and an "ask-the-artist" forum, including local arts advocates and preservationists in the discussion.

The opening reception for this project is Friday, May 19, from 5 to 8 pm.

Refreshments will be served.

All events related to this project are free and open to the public.

Jen Raimondi received her MFA from RISD in 2001 and has shown in Boston, New York, Westport, CT, Athens, GA, and numerous venues in Rhode Island. She has received Individual Artist Fellowships from RISCA, as well as a Joan Mitchell grant to attend the Santa Fe Art Institute residency program. Her Fort Adams project is funded by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, and sponsored by Island Arts Center in Newport.

"Altogether the project will convey a sense of peace, loss, and a ghostly presence of the past"

Brush Clearing on the Outerworks

Thanks to a vigorous effort by DEM this spring, the outerworks of the Fort have been cleared of heavy brush and trees for the first time in many years, revealing earthen and masonry features, including ammunition

bunkers and defensive positions, which were previously inaccessible. The outermost ditch where the Tenailles are located is also being cleaned up, making it easier to see and appreciate the works including the below grade

passageways and the bridges over those passageways. The challenge for the Trust will be to find the resources to make sure these areas receive regular mowing to prevent the rapid re-growth of the vegetation.

WWII Bombproof found again

Those familiar with the wartime history of the Fort knew that there was an underground command center installed in the vicinity of the Redoubt during the Second World War. Thanks to the efforts of Frank Hale, the entrances to this facility have

been relocated, and a WW II era plan from the collection of Walter Schroeder confirms the location and outline of the structure, which measures approximately 40' wide by 110' long. The entrances appear to be filled with earth and the Trust, along with

DEM and the RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, are considering when and how to attempt to enter the facility, along with measures to make sure it remains secure along with any significant contents.

From the President's Desk, continued

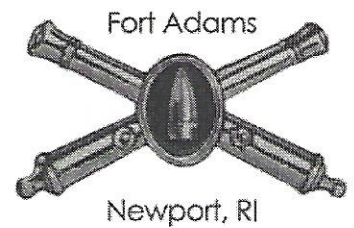
Plan now to attend our annual fundraiser event, which will take place this year on October 21st at the Fort. The *Monster Bash* will be a fun, costume optional event for adults with themed entertainment and food. The Special Events Committee is looking for persons to chair this event and take on the planning and promotion to make it a suc-

cess. If you have any ideas or would like to help, please call Laurie Labrecque.

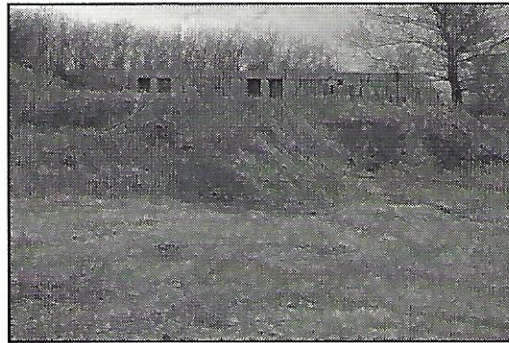
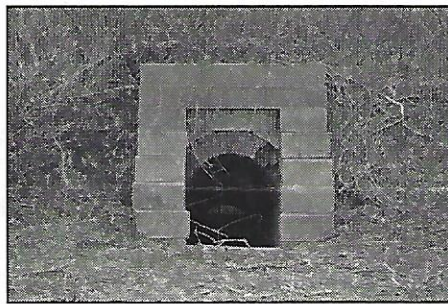
Be generous in responding to our various appeals during the year. Unrestricted operating funds are the most difficult to raise but they are necessary to keep the Trust going. If you have any ideas about possible donors, corporate sponsors, or fundraising

please call Eric Hertfelder.

Finally, I want to thank Aimee Saunders for her service and contributions to the Fort as Director of Visitor Services. The daily tours are the heart of our mission as well as a large portion of our operating budget. Aimee wants to return to school in the area of museum studies and we wish her well.



Here are some photos of the newly cleared Outerworks. For the first time in recent memory these defensive positions are visible.



Uniformed Scouts are Free on May 13

Fort Adams opens for the 2006 season on Saturday, May 13 at 10:00am. Tours leave on the hour, every hour, from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. The Gift Shop is

stocked full of great Fort Adams clothing and souvenirs. This year there are several new colors of the Fort Adams silkscreened t-shirt.

In celebration of the first day of tours, any Boy or Girl Scout in uniform will get a free tour. Parents accompanying the scouts will get \$1 off admission.

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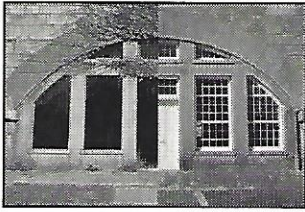
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Thank You Donors!



**Annual Appeal 2005
raised \$11,682**

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* Donors as of March 20, 2006

Aimee Saunders Leaving Fort Adams Trust

Trust Director of Visitor Services Aimee Saunders has decided to return to school full time to study curation and conservation.

Aimee joined the Trust in August 2003 as a tour guide. In December of 2003 she joined the full

time staff and has been responsible for the smooth running of the tour program, gift shop, membership program, newsletter, and many other activities.

During Aimee's time at the Trust income from Visitor Services activities

increased, and new programs were developed such as the Tunnel Rat Patch Program for Boy and Girl Scouts. The Fort Adams Trust thanks Aimee for all her contributions, and wishes her well in her studies.

Walking Trail around the Peninsula

We are currently working on a self guided walking tour of the West side of Fort Adams State Park. The concept of this walk is to discover more about Newport Harbor and Narragansett Bay and the defenses of both.

Eventually we would like to have interpretive signs at points along the walk but for this season we will just have a free brochure detailing the points of interest. The bro-

chure will be available at the Fort Adams State Park Visitor Center and the Gateway Visitor Center on America's Cup Avenue.

The West side of the park offers great views of Newport Harbor, the Pell Bridge, Rose Island Lighthouse, Jamestown and even Beaver-tail. Starting during the Colonial era, the walk will trace the military and civilian use of Newport Harbor and Narragansett Bay.

Topics covered include the British Attack on Newport during the Revolutionary War, the establishment of the Navy Torpedo Station during WWII, the steamship lines of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, recreational sailing in Narragansett Bay, the Fort Adams Cemetery and Eisenhower House.

Membership Benefits

- Free unlimited general admission for one year
- 10% discount on all products at the Gift Shop
- Free subscription to the Fort Adams Newsletter
- Invitation/discounts to special events
- A tax deduction to the fullest extent of the law

Members of the Garrison: four guest passes & History of Fort Adams.

Captains of the Garrison: all benefits plus print of Fort

Commanders of Fort: all benefits plus two tickets to Jazz or Folk Festival at Fort Adams.

Commanding General of Fort: all benefits plus 40% discount on the rental of the Fort.

Join the Ranks

(Detach and mail)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail : _____

Visa or Mastercard _____ Expires _____

Signature (required if paying by Credit Card) _____

Membership Levels

(circle one)

Individual \$25

Family/Household \$50

Members of the Garrison \$100

Captains of the Garrison \$250

Commanders of the Fort \$500

Commanding General of the

Fort \$1,000

2006 Calendar of Events

- May 13 Fort Adams Open for Tours, 10am - 4pm Daily
- May 18-31 Sculpture Installation, viewing hours 3-5pm daily, reception May 19th
- May 19 Fort Adams Trust Annual Meeting, 5:30 - 7:00pm @ Eisenhower House
- June 17 Family Day, 11am - 6pm, Rain Date: Sunday, June 18
- July 14 - 16 Island Moving Company: Flight of Steps, 6:30 - 8pm
- July 19 - 23 Island Moving Company: Flight of Steps, 6:30 - 8pm
- August 5 & 6 Dunkin' Donuts Folk Festival
- August 12 & 13 JVC Jazz Festival
- September 9 & 10 Civil War Living History Weekend, 10am - 5pm
- October 8 Middletown Rotary Car Show, 9am - 3pm
- October 21 Monster Bash, Fort Adams Trust Halloween Fundraiser, 7 - 11pm
- October 27 Fort Adams Closed for Tours
- October 27 - 31 Fortress of Nightmares, 7pm
- December 9 Newport Navy Choristers Concert, St. Lucy's Church, 7:30pm

Champlin Foundation Funds Youth Overnight Barracks

The Champlin Foundations awarded \$60,000 in December for the project. The Champlin Foundations have previously supported the Trust with grants of \$150,000 for the North Casemates and \$100,000 for the Officers Quarters roof. We thank them for their continuing support!

Family Day, June 17th

Family Day 2006 is scheduled for Saturday, June 17 from 11am - 6pm. The rain date is Sunday, June 18.

This Second Annual event is a not to be missed fun-filled day. Admission is free for the entire family. A variety of entertainment and activities will be provided for kids of all ages. The North Lawn will be adorned with multi colored banners and arches.

High Flyers Flight Company and local kite enthusiasts will be flying kites of all sizes and shapes. *Off the Curb*, Newport's Youth Hip Hop Dance Troupe will be performing on stage.

Other entertainment will include *The Shriner's Clowns*; *Robo the Clown & Tails the Clown*; *Ben & Jerry's Minstrel Show* and *The Big Nazo Puppets*. Activities will include a

pitch speed cage; Moon Bounce; a K-9 drug sniffing dog demonstration. This is just some of the entertainment and activities that will be provided. Food will be available for purchase during the entire day.

Mark your calendars and bring your family, bring your friends and join in the fun - don't miss Family Day 2006!